

REMARKS

Claims 25, 26, 28-32, 36 and 40-46 are pending.

This Amendment is being submitted in accordance with a telephone conversation between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney conducted on March 19, 2004.

Applicant respectfully asserts that this is a proper amendment after final rejection placing this application in condition for allowance.

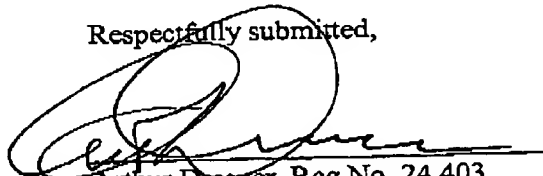
Each of the independent claims have been amended to indicate that the illumination channel is substantially outside the viewing angle. Accordingly no direct reflection of illumination light falls into the observation channels. This distinguishes the invention from the prior art thus rendering the application in allowable condition.

Submitted herewith are new sheets of drawings. Figures 4, 5 and 6 of the new drawings have been corrected to show the direct reflected light (RL) clearly outside the viewing angle.

In view of the foregoing applicant respectfully requests issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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